FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 FEBRUARY 1985

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force hit three "large maritime targets" near Khark Island in two raids on 14 February, Iraq announced in official statements carried by INA and Baghdad radio. Iraqi pilots saw the third target catch fire before they returned to base. For Iran's part, a military communique cited by IRNA stated that the Iraqis suffered about 300 casualties during their "futile" attack in the Maymak region early on 12 February, adding that another Iraqi offensive in the same region the following day was likewise repulsed. Meanwhile, an Iranian Foreign Ministry official accused Iraq of "procrastination and delays" in accepting Iraqi POW's released by Iran, contending that Iraq is afraid to receive POW's in case it is forced to reciprocate and release Iranian POW's, Tehran radio reported.

Lebanon

The IDF killed 11 "terrorists" and captured 9 others in a clash near the Al-Awwali River, IDF radio announced. Further south, a Lebanese villager was killed in a "brawl" with IDF soldiers searching the Shi'ite village of Burj Rahhal, according to the radio. The Israelis arrested some 60 residents of the village, ITIM reported, and the UNIFIL spokesman disclosed that a fight erupted between IDF and UNIFIL officers when the latter tried to prevent the Israelis from demolishing buildings, according to Beirut radio.

Israel and the Golan Heights

The entire Cabinet views the Golan Heights as an "inseparable part of Eretz Yisra'el" and this is supported by the Knesset resolution of December 1981, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in an address reported by ITIM. "Not even a statement by an American official will change this," Shamir added in his response to a U.S. official's call for Israeli-Syrian negotiations over the Golan. Shamir's remarks were echoed by Industry and Commerce Minister Ari'el Sharon, who told settlement leaders from the Golan that the Cabinet should make it clear that the Golan cannot and will not be subject to any type of negotiations with the Syrians, according to Jerusalem radio.

PLO-Jordan

Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat commented on the agreement with the PLO in remarks reported by Amman radio, stating that it stresses the need to solve the Palestine question through an international conference attended by all parties concerned, with the participation of a "joint PLO-Jordanian delegation." However, in a Radio Monte Carlo interview, Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan said the PLO has agreed to participate in a "unified Arab delegation." He also insisted that the agreement does not mention UN Resolution 242, which "we reject."

Iranian Comment on Arab Diplomacy

An IRNA commentary linked Saudi King Fahd's U.S. visit with the Saudi rulers' attempt to perpetuate their "despotic rule" by advocating a compromise with Israel and by relying on U.S. weapons. The commentary also condemned the PLO-Jordanian "so-called peace plan," which includes "many positive points from the viewpoints of Washington and Tel Aviv." As for reports that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, France, Algeria, and Syria have formulated a plan to end the Iran-Iraq war, the agency noted that top Iranian officials have rejected this plan already and have said that Syria's participation in it is "most unlikely."

Iraq-Turkey Pipeline

Iraqi and Turkish officials signed an agreement for the construction of a second Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline parallel to the first line, INA reported. The new pipeline will be completed "within 18 months" and will allow the volume of Iraqi oil pumped across Turkey to increase by 50 percent.

PDRY

'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, announced his resignation as chairman of the Council of Ministers in a speech broadcast by Aden radio, disclosing that he has given up the premiership in order to concentrate on his responsibilities as head of the party and state. The Supreme People's Council Presidium endorsed the resignation and approved the nomination of Haydar abu Bakr al-'Attas as the new prime minister, the radio noted. Al-'Attas thanked his predecessor in a speech broadcast by the radio, pointing out that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad left his post to devote himself to "more important and more profound duties." The prime minister also stressed that his government will pay "special attention" to strengthening the PDRY's defense capabilities on a "modern scientific basis." The new cabinet, listed in a decree carried by the radio, contains several new appointees and portfolios.

Sudan

At a news conference in Aswan following talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri acknowledged that the "sabotage movement" in southern Sudan has stopped the Jonglei canal project and the search for oil in the south; and he disclosed that his government is planning to meet with the rebels to achieve a solution, MENA reported. However, the authorities are still waiting for a response from the "outlaws," he noted. As for the "big campaign" against Sudan launched from Europe and certain Arab states, Numayri said he had assured Mubarak that this is "no more than a tempest in a tea pot," the purpose of which is to undermine the strong relations between Egypt and Sudan.

Maghreb Summit

Leaders of the Five Maghreb countries have agreed to hold a summit meeting at the end of March, according to a source in Tunis cited by AFP.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

The DRA Foreign Ministry handed a note to the FRG charge d'affaires protesting the West German media's "false and poisonous propaganda activities against the DRA," Kabul radio reported.

Meanwhile, "informed sources" in Islamabad expressed regret over the "false information" about Pakistan disseminated by the Soviet media, citing TASS and Moscow radio reports about U.S. military involvement in Pakistan as examples, according to Karachi radio.

This false propaganda campaign coupled with the increasing violations of Pakistan's frontiers will hamper the forthcoming indirect negotiations for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue, the report added.

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Protest Lodged Over FRG 'Hostile' Activities

LD141628 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the FRG Embassy was summoned to the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1500 on Wednesday 13 February, and the following note of protest was handed to him by the official in charge of the Fifth Political Department:

It has been observed the FRG mass media have recently intensified their false and poisonous propaganda activities against the DRA.

These activities have been directly supported by the ruling circles of the FRG and sometimes are even organized by them.

This claim is supported not only by the credible world press and media but by the FRG mass media itself.

In early January, the television broadcast a special report on a secret visit by Bundestag Deputy Juergen Todenhoeffer to Afghanistan in December.

In the program, Todenhoeffer himself said that he had taken part in the rebels' struggle and had, under the guidance of a counter-revolutionary band, travelled a long distance inside the territory of Afghanistan together with a number of journalists.

In this report he expressed sympathy with Afghan counterrevolutionary bands. He has also asked the FRG authorities to increase aid and support to them.

Despite the warning and objections of the DRA authorities, unfortunately the secret and illegal entry, not only of the FRG's journalists but also of militarists and politicians, into DRA territory is continuing.

These actions of official FRG authorities, aiming to assist the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, and the gathering and publication of false and fabricated information against the national Government of Afghanistan and its friends constitute open interference and are regarded as a violation of the DRA's authority.

These actions are also inconsistent with international principles and norms, as well as diplomatic relations between the two countries. Thus they have aroused the anger and revulsion of the DRA people.

Hence, the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs vigorously denounces these hostile and unfriendly activities of the FRG's authorities and seriously protests them, and demands that the authorities of that country halt such hostile and undesirable activities, otherwise the consequence of a repetition of such activities will rest on the relevant authorities of that country.

Three Counterrevolutionaries Sentenced to Death

LD130650 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul February 12, BAKHTAR: A revolutionary tribunal of the DRA sentenced three counter-revolutionaries to death and one to twenty years of imprisonment in Mazar-e Sharif on Monday.

Those who were sentenced to death include Muhammad Ibrahim alias Qurban Ali, Abdul Khaleq, and Sulayman.

Muhammad Ibrahim alias Aqai Mazari inhabitant [words indistinct] District, Jowzjan Province was sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment.

All of them belong to the so-called Fedayen-e Eslami counter-revolutionary band. The convicts were found guilty of committing anti-state and counter-revolutionary activities, armed resistance against the security forces of the DRA, blowing up of a gas pipeline, escape from military service and other subversive actions.

The death sentences of the convicts are subject to the approval of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

The accused were tried in open in the presence of over [figure indistinct] inhabitants of Balkh Province and were provided complete facilities for their defence. The accused confessed before the tribunal to their crimes.

Konduz Rally Marks 'Crushing' of Rebels

LD130014 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Thousands of the working people of Konduz city and its environs, by staging a glorious rally and chanting revolutionary slogans, yesterday marked the heroism of the Armed Forces in crushing the rebels in Qal'eh-ye Zal.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Konduz that the marchers then held a meeting in the central square of Konduz. At this meeting four of the rebels that had been arrested in Qal'eh-ye Zal exposed the counterrevolutionaries' crimes and savagery committed against our working people on the instruction of their reactionary and imperialist masters.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that following the talk of Abdul Ghani Adafmand, governor of Konduz, on the principled policy of the party and the revolutionary government, the Sarandoy commander of Konduz Province then shed light on the revolutionary morale of the officers and men of the Armed Forces in crushing the Qal'eh-ye Zal rebels, those dirty elements, which was warmly welcomed by the audience.

Delhi: Students Clash With Police in Dhaka

Students Press Demands

BK141429 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] In Dhaka, heavily armed police pickets have been deployed around the Bangladesh Secretariat following a call by the central students action committee to gherao [encircle] it to press their demands.

The demands include change in the government's educational policy, transport concession for students, increase in stipend, and books with cheaper prices.

The liaison committee of the 15-party and the 7-party alliance is observing today as the saheed [martyrs] day.

Student Leader Killed

BK141619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpts] In Bangladesh, there are reports of violent student demonstrations in the capital, Dhaka. Police resorted to repeated lathi [baton] charge and fired several rounds of tear gas shells in different parts of the city to contain the rampaging students.

They were protesting against the killing of a student leader by the youth wing of a progovernment party.

The students set on fire parts of the Dhaka University building and the office of the youth wing of the progovernment party.

Two main opposition alliances have extended their support to the students' call of a 6-hour hartal [strike] tomorrow.

Ershad on Student's Death

BK141728 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has expressed his deep shock and grief at the death of Mr (Rahul Baktu Mian), a final year student of Dhaka University, last night. In a condolence message today, the president said in his death the country has lost a promising young man who could have made valuable contributions to our national life.

He strongly condemned armed hooliganism at the campus which caused the unfortunate and untimely death of Mr (Baktu Mian) and said the incident has all the more proved that the seats of learning in the country should be kept totally out of political activity.

President Ershad conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul.

All classes of the Dhaka University will remain suspended for 3 days from Saturday. A university press release issued today says the decision has been taken at an emergency joint meeting of the syndicate members, provost, and deans. The meeting was presided over by the vice chancellor, Professor Shamsul Haq. Resident students have been advised to leave their halls.

Opposition Alliances Threaten To Disrupt Polls

BK150414 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, two major opposition alliances have declared that they will not participate in the poll on 6 April. They have also threatened to disrupt the polls, if held.

The leader of the 15-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, told a rally in Dhaka that her alliance would continue for realization of the 5-point demand on establishing people's rights. She said the alliance cannot be a party to an election which will not be free and fair under the martial law regime. Addressing a similar rally, the leader of the 7-party alliance, Begum Khaleda Zia, said her party is determined to resist election.

Meanwhile, President Ershad has announced that his government would remain neutral and would not take part in the elections. Addressing a gathering at the northeastern Rangpur District, he said he would hand over power to the elected representatives of the people.

Gandhi Comments on Elections, New Programs

BK150128 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said that another new legislation will be brought in shortly to clean politics in the country.

Addressing a series of meetings in Karnataka today, he said more measures will be brought forward in the coming session of parliament to revamp the functioning of the government and strengthen the economy.

Mr Gandhi reiterated the government's resolve to end the evil of black money by bringing in suitable legislation.

Mr Gandhi said the government has drawn up special programs for the benefit of farmers, the weaker sections, minorities, women, and youths.

Talking about selection of candidates for the coming assembly elections, he pointed out that more than half of the Congress-I nominees represent youths and women.

Emphasizing the need to have the same party to rule at the center and in the states, Mr Gandhi said this will help in speedy implementation of development programs.

Referring to the antidefection bill, Mr Gandhi said this is one of the major poll assurances given by his party during the last Lok Sabha election.

He said the erstwhile Janata government at the center had failed to fulfill its promise of enacting this legislation.

Mr Gandhi criticized the Janata government in Karnataka for neglecting the implementation of the 20-point program. He said when the Congress government left office there was a surplus in the state exchequer, but now it is facing the deficit.

Center Reshuffles Secretaries, High Officials

BK131619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] There has been a major reshuffle of officers in the rank of secretary to the central government. The departments of several secretaries have been changed. Services of four secretaries have been placed at the disposal of their states. There are also some promotions and appointments.

The director general of All India Radio, Mr S.S. Verma, is being posted as secretary, textiles. Mr M. Subramaniam will be secretary, agriculture and cooperation; while Mr D.N. Ghose will be secretary, defense production. Mr Harbans Singh will be secretary and director general of Bureau of Public Enterprises.

Mr Y.S. Das will be secretary, culture; and Mr Anand Swaroop that of education. Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, who is now additional secretary, culture, will be director Indira Gandhi National Center of Arts in the rank of secretary.

Jaruzelski Departs, Joint Press Release Issued

Leaves Madras for Bombay

BK141127 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The Polish prime minister, General Jaruzelski, has left Madras for Bombay after his 2-day visit to the city. He was seen off at the airport by the Tamil Nadu governor, Mr S.L. Khurana; the speaker, Mr K. Rajaram; the city sheriff, Mr Mohamed Ali among others.

During his stay in Madras, General Jaruzelski visited the integral coach factory.

Leaves Bombay for Warsaw

BK150741 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister of Poland, General Jaruzelski, left Bombay for Warsaw this morning at the end of his 5-day state visit to India. He was seen off at the Bombay airport by the Maharashtra governor, Mr I.H. Latif, and the chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil.

During his stay in Bombay, the Polish prime minister visited the Bhabha atomic research center.

Joint Press Release Issued

BK151300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] India and Poland have called for reform of international economic institutions to establish a just, nondiscriminatory international economic order. In a joint press release issued at the end of the 5-day official visit of the Polish prime minister, General Jaruzelski, the two countries welcomed the proposal for holding an international conference on money and finance for development.

General Jaruzelski and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who had intensive talks on international and bilateral matters, voiced serious concern over the nuclear arms race and stressed the need for averting the growing danger of nuclear catastrophe. They also referred to the important role of the Nonaligned Movement in the struggle for world peace and halting of the arms race. Poland highly valued India's role as chairman of the movement.

Foreign Secretary Meets With FRG Official

BK141421 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The director of arms control and disarmament of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr (Fredrick Hrut), met the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, in New Delhi today and exchanged views on the question of disarmament. He will meet the secretary of the Policy Planning Committee of the External Affairs Ministry, Mr A.K. Damodaran, tomorrow.

An official spokesman said the talks are part of consultations India has with different countries from time to time.

Iran Seeks Assistance in Industrial Machinery

BK140332 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Iran has sought India's assistance in the manufacture of textile machinery, leather machinery, and the development of small-scale and rural industries.

The visiting deputy minister of Iran, Mr Mir Ahmad Sadat, had talks in this connection with the industry and company affairs minister, Mr Virendra Patil, in New Delhi. The two ministers expressed the hope that mutual cooperation in various fields would be further strengthened.

Delhi: UK Refuses Asylum to Sikh Activist

BK141439 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The British Government has refused political asylum to Ravinder Singh Ankhe, a permanent activist of the All India Sikh Federation. He came from the United States on the 10th of this month and was detained for 4 days before being put on a flight to Baltimore yesterday.

According to PTI, a similar application made by him about a year ago was also turned down by the British authorities.

Sikh Priests Ready To Help Solve Punjab Problem

BK141349 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Amritsar, Feb. 6 (PTI) — The five Sikh high priests are prepared to play the role of "mediators" between the government and the Akalis to find a solution to the lingering Punjab problem.

An indication to this effect was given by the jathedar [group leader] of Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion], Giani Kirpal Singh, while talking to newsmen at his residence here today.

The jathedar said that in case the government was "serious and sincere" to settle the issue then all senior Akali leaders now under detention in different jails "must be released to create a congenial atmosphere."

Jathedar Kirpal Singh, who is recovering from an attack on his life, suggested that to prove its bona fides the government should at least bring together the Akali leaders at a common place, preferably in Punjab, and the priests should be given an opportunity to talk to them in camera.

"Much had happened in the country after the operation Blue Star at the Golden Temple in June last and once the leaders and the priests, who had been handling the Sikhs' affairs, were allowed to hold discussions, some conclusions could then be reached to break the current impasse," he added.

The jathedar felt that the meeting of the leaders with them was also necessary because the future of the Sikhs was at stake and the community and the panth [sect] were passing through unprecedented crisis.

The government should allow them to come together for giving a "collective thought" to the whole issue, he said.

Meanwhile, according to Akali sources, the Anandpur Sahib resolution was not "secessionist" and if the government pointedly referred to certain clauses, the party could consider them.

The sources pointed out that so far the government had been talking in general terms and it was unfortunate that the resolution was being "misinterpreted".

These sources confirmed that high priests could play a role and, given an opportunity, the controversial clauses of the resolution could also come up for discussion at the meeting of the priests with the detained leaders.

It is also proposed, the sources said, to convene a meeting of Sikh intellectuals to find a solution to Punjab problem and the same could be feasible after the priests had met the Akali leaders.

The sources added that the priests are also of the view that there should be only one Akali Dal and all other organisations using the word "Akali Dal" be dissolved.

Their argument is that the Akali Dal was formed by the jathedar of Akal Takht in 1923 and it was the only party which represented the Sikhs and safeguarded their interests — economic, social, cultural and religious.

Another report said the head priest of Akal Takht, Jathedar Kirpal Singh, will appear before Panj Piyaras [five head priests] at the Akal Takht for his "purification" before resuming his duty as head priest.

Jathedar Kirpal Singh said that this was necessary as he remained admitted in the hospital after attempt on his life near Ludhiana on Jan. 16 and underwent operation which might have resulted in some "impurities" which were not permitted in the Sikh tenets.

TULF Leaders on Influx of Sri Lankan Refugees

BK141257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front has said that about 500 Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka are crossing over to India every day.

Addressing a news conference in Tiruchchirapalli today, the president of the front, Mr Sivasithamparam, and its general secretary, Mr Amirthalingam, said during the last 45 days about 2,800 Sri Lankan refugees have been accommodated in the (Mandapamba) camp.

Afghans Disrupt USSR Envoy to Pakistan's Speech

OW150033 Tokyo KYODO in English 0026 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 15 KYODO — A meeting addressed by Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan Vitaliy Smirnov in Lahore, the capital of Punjab Province, Thursday night turned into pandemonium when some Afghan youths tried to burn a Soviet flag and raised anti-Soviet slogans.

The scuffle between the Afghan protestors and organizers of the meeting left seven injured and was brought under control only when police arrived to arrest the Afghan demonstrators.

The Soviet ambassador was addressing a private gathering organized by former Punjab Minister Nasir Mali. Some of the Afghan participants took exception to the ambassador's remarks as he was talking about Pakistan-Afghan relations.

The Soviet ambassador listed alleged intervention in Afghanistan by Pakistan as one of three factors straining good relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

The other factors inhibiting growth of friendly relations with his country included anti-Soviet propaganda and the cold shoulder given to Soviet delegations in Pakistan, he said.

'Informed Sources' Regret Moscow 'Propaganda'

BK141633 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Informed sources in Islamabad have expressed regret over the fact that the Soviet media are continuously broadcasting and publishing false information about Pakistan. The latest example of this is a TASS report citing *THE TIMES OF INDIA* of the 5th of this month saying that Pakistan has permitted the U.S. Defense Department to use the Makran coast, from which all routes to the gulf can be controlled. The report said that, in fact, *THE TIMES OF INDIA* cited a magazine published in London — *MIDDLE EAST* — which said that Pakistan is rapidly building up a strong military infrastructure in the coastal area of Makran.

The report said that the Soviet leaders are well aware of the fact that there is no base of any kind for either the United States or any other country in Pakistan and that Pakistan is not building any military infrastructure on the Makran coast. The Soviet media, knowing that the *MIDDLE EAST* magazine published false information, intentionally presented the report after further distorting it.

Radio Moscow is carrying similar fictitious and baseless reports. On the 11th of this month, Radio Moscow said that the United States has imposed a secret agreement on Pakistan allowing the United States to use Pakistan's land, water, and air ports and other military organizations, and that the U.S. Defense Department has acquired persmission to use the Peshawar, Sargodha, Karachi, and Gwadar military bases and to construct electronic stations there. Radio Moscow was not content with only this misstatement, but also broadcast the mischievous and false statement that Pakistani artillery has been attacking Afghan territory and that Pakistani soldiers are being used to attack Afghanistan.

According to informed observers, this false propaganda campaign and the ever-increasing violations of Pakistan's frontiers by Soviet-Karmal authorities of Kabul will hamper forthcoming indirect negotiations for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue.

Afghan Mujahidin Damage 5 Tanks, Kill 'Many'

BK150240 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] According to information, Afghan mujahidin repulsed a Soviet-Karmal troop attack at their positions in the northern province of Baghlan. The information says that in the 21-hour long battle, the mujahidin damaged 5 tanks of the Soviet-Karmal troops and killed many soldiers.

Afghan mujahidin ambushed mobile Soviet troops near Konduz Province, inflicting heavy casualties.

MASHRIQ Views Soviet Role in Afghanistan

GF141530 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Situation in Afghanistan Is in Itself a Pressure on the Soviet Union"]

[Text] A deputy assistant secretary of state, Mr Arnold Raffle, has said that the United States will put pressure on the United Nations and other world organizations to do their utmost to have the Soviet Union withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. He said that the resistance of the freedom-loving people in Afghanistan is gaining momentum and that the Soviet Union, despite all its efforts during the last 5 years, has not been able to impose its will on the Afghans nor has it been able to bring under its control any part of the local population. He added that the Soviet Union has less than 20 percent of the total area of Afghanistan and less than 20 percent of its total population under its control, and that only during the daytime.

Thus it is clear that the Afghan resistance movement is not only alive but is gaining strength against a world super military power. As regards the losses that the Soviet Union has suffered, Mr Raffle said that according to U.S. calculations, the Soviet Union has so far lost 600 military aircraft, including a number of helicopter gunships. There is also evidence that as time passes, the freedom-loving Afghans fight more effectively against the Karmal and Soviet forces.

Other world observers have made similar observations and the Soviets themselves seem to be helpless in such a situation. We think, he said, that all this is due to the pressure of the internal situation in Afghanistan and it is on this account that the Soviet Union has been compelled to support the efforts being made for a political solution to the problem. However, it is essential to maintain world pressure on the Soviet Union to force it to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

As far as the United Nations is concerned, it has kept its pressure on the Soviet Union and it is for this reason that a series of indirect talks on the Afghan problem are continuing. The progress made so far on this issue is encouraging. The Islamic Conference Organization is also maintaining pressure on the Soviet Union. The Nonaligned Movement also keeps its voice raised against the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. However, the attitude of the leader of this movement, India, is halfhearted even though its pressure could prove more effective on the Soviet Union.

It is therefore essential that the United States should force India to reconsider its attitude on the issue of putting pressure on the Soviet Union. It is believed that the new Indian leadership is anxious to maintain a balance in its relations with the Soviet Union and the United States. Rajiv Gandhi has contradicted the reports that India is leaning more toward the Soviet Union, but this claim can only be substantiated by the extent of reconsideration he carries out in respect to putting pressure on the Soviet Union.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, the situation in Afghanistan has a direct bearing on this country. Pakistan is shouldering a burden of more than 3 million Afghan refugees. It is therefore only natural that Pakistan should wish for a peaceful solution to this problem at the earliest.

Pakistan's stand on this issue is based on its principles and a majority of the world's nations have supported its stand.

Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan question is neither based on any hostility toward the Soviet Union nor any friendship toward the United States, but is based on the problems that have been created for it by the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and exodus of millions of Afghan refugees to Pakistan. This has created a danger for its security too. It is on this account that Pakistan is trying its best for a political solution to the problem. Pakistan wants the ouster of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the restoration of Afghanistan's sovereignty and nonaligned status, and an honorable and safe return of the refugees to their homes in Afghanistan.

The United States would like the Soviet Union to remain involved in the Afghanistan civil war or that Afghanistan should be made a permanent threat to the southern borders of the Soviet Union, but Pakistan has no such longing. Quite the contrary, Pakistan wants a peaceful political solution to the Afghanistan problem that may redeem the Soviet Union from this long war and enable it to withdraw its forces after securing necessary international guarantees. Pakistan too wishes that Afghanistan should not become a base for attack on the Soviet Union. It is for this reason that Pakistan is doing all it can to have the nonaligned status of Afghanistan restored. Afghanistan's nonaligned status could prove useful to the Soviet Union and be in Afghanistan's best interests as well since it serves Afghanistan to remain on friendly and amicable terms with the Soviet Union. For the Soviet Union too it would be most appropriate that it does not waste its military power in the narrow valleys of Afghanistan and does not risk its global prestige. It must have learned during its last 5 years' experience that the proud and brave Afghans cannot be brought to their knees through use of force.

The Soviet Union, however, can win their hearts by restoring their sovereignty and nonaligned status. Pakistan too would like the next round of the Geneva talks to succeed so that some progress can be made in efforts to resolve the Afghan issue through peaceful political means.

MALDIVES

Cooperation With Bangladesh Reviewed in Male

BK130339 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Bangladesh and Maldives have reviewed their current bilateral relations and identified new areas of future cooperation. The possible areas identified for cooperation are broadcasting, information, technology, education, agriculture, and fisheries.

The review of bilateral relations took place at the second meeting of the Bangladesh-Maldives joint committee in Male. Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury and his Maldives counterpart, Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, led their respective sides at the meeting.

At a meeting with the Maldives foreign minister, Mr Fathulla Jameel, the Bangladesh foreign secretary also discussed international issues of common concern. They also discussed preparations being made by Bangladesh for hosting the first ever South Asian Regional Cooperation summit to be held in Dhaka later this year.

SRI LANKA

Delhi Cites Tamil Group Appeal to Portugal

BK131636 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] The organization for the protection of Tamils from genocide has appealed to the Portugese Government not to supply arms to Sri Lanka. In a letter to the Portugese president and prime minister, it said the campaign against Tamil militants is actually indulging in genocide of Tamils. The letter urged them not to allow their country to be a party to the transgression of human rights by the Sri Lankan Army.

Security Forces Kill 58 'Terrorists' in North

BK151322 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Security forces have killed 58 terrorists in a raid on a Jaffna hideout in the north. According to the Ministry of National Security, the raid on a camp in the Mullaittivu area was conducted early this morning.

The minister, Lalith Athulathmudali, told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the security forces were also able to capture an unknown amount of arms and ammunition. He said there was no civilian in the area making the operation easier for the security forces. He said the (?terrorists also injured 10) members of the security forces.

Correction to Interview With Premadasa

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "BANGKOK POST Interviews Premadasa on Tamils," published in the 13 February South Asia *DAILY REPORT*, page G 1:

The subslug should read: ["Exclusive" interview granted by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, visiting Thailand to address the regional conference on environment at ESCAP, to *BANGKOK POST* editor-in-chief The Chongkhadikit; in Bangkok -- date not given]

Khamene'i Attends 5th Session of SAIRI

GF141900 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] In the presence of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, the 5th session of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] began its meetings today.

In today's session, SAIRI Chairman Muhammad al-Hashimi presented a report to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on the present situation and the results of the measures that have been taken since the convening of the 4th SAIRI session.

Velayati Receives Anniversary Congratulations

LD141819 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA — Congratulatory messages were sent to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati marking the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The messages were sent by foreign ministers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hungary, Venezuela as well as the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

Libyan Envoy Delivers Message to Velayati

LD141151 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] The official in charge of the Libyan People's Bureau in Tehran this afternoon met with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati.

He delivered a message from 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Bureau of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, to Velayati, in connection with the recent developments of the Middle East and the issues of Lebanon and Palestine.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks on Islamic Movement

LD150959 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA — The speaker of the Iranian Majlis said in a speech Thursday [14 February] that the Islamic Republic is the leading edge in the global Islamic movement which should continue until all Islamic countries are freed from the domination of infidels.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was addressing members of the Islamic Revolution's committees on the anniversary of their establishment.

"We are in the forefront of a global Islamic movement and we believe as long as Muslims are oppressed all over the world and as long as even a single country is ruled by infidels, our Islamic movement must continue," he said.

He added this does not mean Iran would send armies to war with other countries "but we must keep Iran as a base for supporting Islamic movements."

On the committee's activities, he said anti-revolutionaries, liberals, prostitutes, supporters of Western culture, hoarders and narcotics smugglers are all manifestations of a single entity with roots in the United States, France and other powers.

"All these circles which are against the Islamic Republic are rooted in the White House," Rafsanjani said.

"As long as our people are against America, the arrogant and infidels, these (circles) will exist and we should always be ready to confront these satanic forces."

He said there are doubts in the minds of some individuals whether the committees are a necessity for today or in the future but added the committees could be effective for the country as long as its members remain Islamic and revolutionary.

Khomeyni's Son Meets With Grand Ayatollahs

LD151206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni [Khomeyni's son] met and had talks with Grand Ayatollahs Golpaygani, Mar'ashi-Najafi, and Montazeri in Qom this morning.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 2,004

LD141601 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced in its Communique No. 2004 issued Thursday that the Iraqis suffered about 300 casualties during their futile attack in Maymak region, in Ilam Province Tuesday morning.

The Iraqi forces started their offensive at 02:15 a.m. Tuesday (22:45 GMT Monday), but were repelled by the heavy artillery fire of the Islamic combatants who also received fire support from havaniruz (air support for the ground forces). The battle ended at 18:30 hours local time (15:00 GMT) the same day.

Meanwhile, the communique said enemy forces launched another attack at 06:00 hours local time (02:30 hours GMT) on Wednesday in another part of Maymak region but were forced to withdraw while sustaining casualties and losses. The battle ended at 10:30 hours local time (07:00 hours GMT) the same day.

In the northwestern front, sporadic exchange of fire continued and in the southern front, fire was more intense in Nahr-Anbar, Shalacheh, Kushk, Talaiyeh and Majnun Islands.

Movements of the enemy's infantry patrol units in Chananeh and Yebis in the south and those of Iraqi boats near the Majnun Island region were thwarted by the Islamic combatants.

The engineering activities of the Iraqi troops were stopped and several of their personnel were killed while more than eight weaponry positions were set ablaze by the gendarmerie forces in Bayat and on Arvand River during the past 24 hours.

Several houses were damaged as a result of Iraqi long-range fire upon the residential areas of Abadan on Wednesday, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Forces Kill, Wound 365 Iraqi Soldiers

LD141847 Tehran IRNA in English 1814 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Province, Feb 14 IRNA — The Islamic combatants either killed or wounded 365 Iraqi troops and demolished 21 individual and group bunkers, one observation post, one tank and two munitions depots in Bakhtaran and Ilam fronts over the past 48 hours. Two enemy vehicles were damaged during these operations.

The casualties were inflicted upon the enemy troops as the Islamic defenders shelled their military fortifications, positions and logistical axes in Maymak, Sumar and other battle scenes of Bakhtaran and Ilam Provinces.

Energy Minister at Power Station Inauguration

LD121732 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Esfahan, Esfahan Pr, Feb 12, IRNA — The second unit of the 800 mw Shahid Mohammad Montazeri power station went into operation here Tuesday. [12 February]

Energy Minister Hasan Ghafuri-Fard and other officials were present for the inauguration.

The 200 mw unit will increase electricity output in Esfahan Province by 30 percent. The other two units are to go into operation next Iranian year, beginning March 20.

The cost for the completion of all four units of the station is estimated at rials 40 billion (dlrs 425.5 mn). The main foreign contractor is a Soviet company, with a Polish company undertaking construction work and a Hungarian company installing the cooling towers.

The energy minister expressed hope the Islamic Republic would become independent of foreign experts in the technical field as it has become independent in the political field.

Maltese Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD151113 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 15 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA — A Maltese delegation led by Foreign Minister Dr. Alex Sceberras Trigona arrived in Tehran today and was welcomed by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Trigona, who is on his third visit to Iran, said his talks here would be aimed at expanding political, economic and cultural ties, especially since both countries are a member of the Nonaligned Movement.

Foreign Minister Velayati said relations between Iran and Malta have steadily expanded in the last three years and that they have established good trade and economic links especially in the ship building industry.

In previous visits by Maltese delegations to Iran, the two countries have discussed trade relations, as well as cooperation in the field of heavy industries such as railway wagon production, spare parts for locomotives and ship building.

Reaction to Iraqi General Amnesty Decree

Political Ploy by Saddam

LD132128 Tehran IRNA in English 1927 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13 IRNA — In a bid to win some degree of respectability abroad and perhaps assure himself a cessation of hostile activity by his opponents, Iraq's Saddam Husayn today vowed to give amnesty to all political activists or opposition groups on the wanted list of Iraq.

News agencies quoting a communique published in Baghdad today say that the amnesty would also apply to the "previously outlawed" Al-Da'wah opposition party as well as to other parties which have supported Iran and her allies.

The Iraqi ruler has not said why he is granting the amnesty, but one reason why his promise has been taken suspiciously is that he has excluded all political activists now serving prison terms inside Iraq.

The amnesty as seen against the social and political background in Iraq is all too much reminiscent of a similar amnesty to political prisoners in Iran by the ex-shah during the concluding weeks of his reign. Or perhaps of a similar move by Pinochet in the early days of his coming to power in Chile.

Observers outside Baghdad are of the opinion that the dubious decree might be a pretext for Saddam whereby to identify his hitherto known enemies in and outside of Iraq, and proceed to get rid of them.

Saddam Husayn has also apparently endorsed the move whereby to portray himself as a democratic leader concerned abour civil liberties and a lover of peaceful relations even with his avowed enemies.

It is also said that he is very much likely to exploit some bought individuals confessing to the media that they were one-time political activists gladly heeding Saddam's promise for amnesty.

Whether the foreign media will laud Saddam's decree as a bona fide promise or whether they will dwell upon the amnesty sufficiently enough to beguile political activists is something to be seen in the future weeks.

SAIRI Dismisses Claim

LD142117 Tehran IRNA in English 1933 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA — The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) in a statement issued here

today described the recent claim of the Iraqi regime on general amnesty for all the opponents of the Ba'thist regime as a show-off. It also called on all opposition groups to escalate their campaigns for the overthrow of the Iraqi despot and for the establishment of a government of divine justice in that country.

The statement further said that the criminal regime of Saddam has made the move in an attempt to prolong its rule over the oppressed people of Iraq. Suffering from political, military and economic isolation and weaknesses, the Baghdad regime is trying to deceive the Iraqi nation and the public opinion of the world with its so-called general amnesty.

The decision by Saddam Husayn is a clear proof and an explicit confession to the expansion of the Islamic movement which is in open opposition to the Ba'thists' rule, and indicates the support of the masses for this movement, the SAIRI statement said.

The SAIRI added that the Iraqi Muslim nation and the Islamic forces would not be deceived by such pretentious measures since it said they had already witnessed similar instances especially in 1979 and 1982 which produced no results but more arrests and torture, slaughter and homelessness for the people.

The statement asked how one could believe Saddam's claims while his regime is insisting on the detention of tens of thousands of Iraqi mujahidin and opponents of the regime?

It then advised the Baghdad government to release as a first step all the political prisoners being held at Iraqi jails.

The SAIRI also called on the world public opinion and the international organisations to investigate the bad condition of tens of thousands of political prisoners being kept specially at the dungeons of the Iraqi intelligence agency in Sa'dun, Abu Gharib, and garrisons of Ramadi, Mawsil, Noqrat al-Salman and tens of other secret detention houses.

In conclusion, the SAIRI said in its statement that the unity of opposition forces against Saddam Husayn would guarantee the downfall of the Ba'thist regime and the establishment of a government of divine justice in that country.

Al-Da'wah Spokesman Rejects Amnesty

LD140721 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA — A spokesman for the Islamic Al-Da'wah Party of Iraq rejected the general amnesty announced by the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn and described it as a "propaganda maneuver."

The spokesman, castigating Baghdad regime's pardon of political opposition groups, stressed that it was Saddam who should apologize to the Iraqi nation for the crimes he had committed in the country.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Al-Da'wah Party called on all opposition groups to preserve their unity of expression and continue their struggles until the downfall of the present regime.

The Islamic Al-Da'wah Party is fighting for the overthrow of Saddam Husayn's regime and for the establishment of an Islamic rule in Iraq.

Iraq Refuses To Declare Acceptance of POW's

LD141837 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] An official of our country's Foreign Ministry has stated: After approximately 1 month, since Iran's declaration of the unilateral release of a group of Iraqi POW's and the official pursuit of this matter via a third country, Iraq has refused to declare its acceptance of these POW's.

He added: In accordance with the usual practice, the Islamic Republic of Iran releases a group of Iraqi POW's from time to time and at certain intervals, as a humane deed and in order to persuade the other side to take similar action. But always in these cases Iran faces the problem of Iraqi procrastination and delays in accepting the released POW's. For instance, when the last 74-man group was released, we succeeded in returning this group to Iraq only by giving advance notice to the Red Cross representative and his demand on the immediate admittance of the released POW's. And this problem still exists.

Unfortunately, because of its inhumane nature, the Iraqi regime is hesitant and reluctant to accept any humane move. It seems that Iraq is worried and afraid to admit these POW's in case it is forced by international and internal pressure to reciprocate and to take similar measures to release some Iranian POW's. Experience has shown that in such instances Iraq reluctantly releases some civilian POW's, who have been captured and imprisoned illegally, contrary to the 1949 Geneva convention.

He added: From the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran these POW's are released and free now, but since it is necessary for the mother country to declare its acceptance in accordance with the Geneva convention, we cannot hand the POW's to a third country until Iraq declares its readiness to admit them. And we are going to continue our efforts in this connection. Some points were formally raised with the UN special delegation about this issue and countless other problems related to the unilateral release of the POW's, including the disabled POW's and others. The delegation was asked to consider these issues and suggest some ways for removing these obstacles and difficulties created by Iraq.

Iraqi POW's Visit With Relatives 14 Feb

LD141732 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb 14, IRNA — A group of Iraqi POW's met their families here Thursday on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Over 500 relatives of Iraqi POW's entered Heshmatiyeh POW camp here Thursday morning holding flowers in their hands.

The POW's said they were victims of Saddam's subservience and praised the Islamic Republic authorities for arranging for the visit with their relatives.

The captives talked with their relatives at the camp ground for two hours and distributed cakes praising the humanitarian attitude of Iran. A group of captives took pictures with their families.

During the visit, Colonel Behnud, commander of the Tariq al-Qods POW Camp No. 2, said that as Imam Khomeyni had decreed Iraqi POW's were our guests and therefore were treated well and all hygenic, medical, cultural and sports facilities were provided for them.

He stressed that the captives were guests of the Islamic Republic and that the real captives were those who were under the pressure of Saddam's regime in Iraq.

He added that there was no limit on the visits of captives with their families and the visits were to be continued and are being carried out at all the camps throughout the country. He said that facilities such as lodging and food are provided for the visitors.

Oil Deliveries to Nicaragua Expected This Year

GF141104 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 14 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Iran has agreed to supply oil to Nicaragua and deliveries are expected to begin later this year, according to Middle Eastern diplomatic sources.

They said agreement in principle was reached in talks last month between Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

Musavi's two-day visit to Nicaragua prompted expressions of concern from the U.S.

President Reagan warned of a 'new danger' in Central America because of Iranian support for Nicaragua's ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Sources said Iranian experts are due in Managua shortly to discuss the volume of deliveries and form of payment.

"Iran has taken a political decision and now the details will be worked out at expert level," a senior official said.

One idea under consideration for payment is an exchange of Nicaraguan sugar for the oil. But the sources stressed no decision on details had been taken so far.

IRNA on Continuing Kuwait-Iraq Border Problems

LD141829 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA — Iraq has informed Kuwaiti officials once again that it intends to take measures to set its land borders with Kuwait if the Bubiyan Island is handed over [as recieved] to them by Kuwait. The Iraqi regime is clearly demonstrating its impatience by moving new military units to the vicinity of the Sa'id Island. It is to be noted that a unit of Iraqi troops violated Kuwaiti border last November near the border region of Sabriya. So far Kuwait has not responded to Saddam's expansionist policies.

A Kuwaiti ex-parliament deputy, 'Abd al-Karim al-Jahidi, referring to his secret trips to Baghdad and his talks with the Ba'thist officials, said despite the large amount of financial aid that Kuwait has provided the Iraqi regime, it has not been able to solve its border problems with Iraq.

PLO Acceptance of Resolution 242 Discussed

GF122028 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Excerpts] In a world governed by special interests, the gap between patriotism and betrayal is narrow. There is no difficulty in changing a point of view as long as there are numerous organs capable of changing facts. The concept of treason can be camouflaged with patriotism. As long as there exists the deep-rooted opinion of the advocates of the capitulatory policies, people will continue to be unable to tell right from wrong and will be colorblind, incapable of distinguishing black from white. This is because people have been subjugated for so long it has now become normal to them.

Today, we have before us evidence of a change of attire. It is replaced with convenient attire at the convenient time. The most recent such example is the acceptance by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of Resolution 242 at a mourning ceremony arranged for the Palestinian issue. Among the participants at this ceremony were King Husayn and a number of PLO officials.

In one of its statements, the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat said: We reject Resolution 242 because it carries within it the complete liquidation of the Palestinian issue. The statement added that this resolution does not mention anything about the Palestinian people, its rights, or its fate, and it recognizes the Israeli right for existence within recognized permanent boundaries. With time, the person who was shouting with those fiery words has taken off the resistance attire which has been covered with the Palestinian people's blood, and has thrown it in the direction of King Husayn's needs, and then in the direction of Mubarak's needs.

This 180-degree change in direction came even faster than expected, even by King Husayn. He did not believe that 'Arafat and his clique would so quickly accept Resolution 242 or any other resolutions. However, quiet indication from Washington to some Arab leaders that it is prepared to come to an understanding was enough to reverse history. Of course, we do not mean the history of the people, which has been written with sweat, blood, and guns, because this history will remain anchored in people's remorse, and will remain bright in the eyes of the next generations, no matter what plots are contrived against it.

Killings, Protests Against Regime Continue

GF131521 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 13 Feb 85

[Text] Four guards were attacked and killed in Ayubiyeh Avenue in Tehran by some unknown persons. According to our correspondent in Tehran, this incident took place on the evening of 2 February. In Kermanshah, the commander of the Kermanshah Guards Corps was attacked and killed.

According to the Radio Iran correspondent, the writing of slogans on walls and fixing posters and pictures of national leaders on the walls continues. The people who are strongly coming into confrontation with Islamic regime elements have been able to snatch the initiative from the hands of the government officials and spread fear and dread.

In Tabriz, protests and sporadic demonstrations continue. Opposition by the heroic people of this city against the agents of the Islamic Republic and their pseudo armed forces is evident every where.

Afghan Mujahidin Kill 29 Government Troops

LD141418 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Zahedan, Baluchestan va Sistan Province, Feb. 14, IRNA — Twenty-five Afghan soldiers and four of their officers were killed when the Chahar Borjak governorate office was attacked last week by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

Reliable Afghan sources here told IRNA that in this operation which took place near the Kamal Khan dam on the Kampak river in Afghanistan's Hamun-Sistan region, the Afghan mujahidin also took more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition and a considerable number of weapons as booty.

IRNA Comments on King Fahd's Visit to U.S.

LD141626 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA — The official visit of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to the United States ended Wednesday with the issuance of an official communique, and with his official visit ended, King Fahd has decided to remain in America for some rest and recuperation.

The whole visit was a unique exercise from the beginning, when at their first meeting Fahd told Reagan that Arab states in recent years owed their independence to the United States. This was a lot more than what President Reagan had hoped for, and it showed the degree of Saudi Arabia's determination to "Americanize" all the Arab countries.

In reply, Reagan said as the custodian of the Holy Ka'aba, Saudi Arabia enjoyed a moral influence which should be used in solving the differences that exist between the Islamic world and the West. This, according to well-placed observers, indicates the American decision to give Saudi Arabia a pivotal role in defending the U.S. interests in the region. From what has been reported on this visit, one can see that there were three main topics which were discussed between Fahd and Reagan:

— Saudi Arabia's purchase of arms from America,
— Negotiations and accord between King Husayn of Jordan and 'Arafat,
— A peace plan for the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran.

During the visit, it was reported that Fahd had requested the sale of 40 F-15 jets, 1,000 air-to-air missiles and 1,000 Stinger ground-to-air missiles.

This request, taking into account the fact that the Saudi regime has proved that it does help the Jerusalem-occupying regime both directly and indirectly, could only indicate the deep-seated fear of the Saudi rulers of any possible resistance on the part of the Muslim people of Saudi Arabia against their despotic rulers.

President Reagan's desire to militarily equip Saudi Arabia was obvious when he said the United States will do everything in its power to bring the Iraq-Iran war to an end and safeguard the security of Saudi Arabia's borders. It is equally obvious that in President Reagan's view, there is a direct connection between ending the war and Saudi Arabia's security.

The Saudi rulers are well aware that the slightest sparkle of dissent and resistance emanating from believing in Islam could herald the end of their despotic rule and their plundering of their people's national wealth on having a good time in the gambling resorts of Europe and America. This is why they hope to remain in power longer by advocating a compromise with the Jerusalem-occupying regime on the one hand, and by relying on American-supplied weapons on the other.

Another important matter that figured in Fahd's talks with Reagan was the so-called peace plan of King Husayn of Jordan and Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The important thing here is to prepare those Arab countries which are involved in the Arab-Israel problem for accepting a compromise with the Jerusalem-occupying regime — something on which President Reagan has been insisting ceaselessly.

While King Fahd said that the Palestinian problem was at the core of the Middle East problem, Kuwaiti newspapers, welcoming his remarks wrote that the wind of compromise with Israel has started blowing in the region. It seems that the United States is hoping to make up for the scandalous escape from Lebanon by the American Marines as well as the expulsion of the multinational U.N. forces and the Israeli troops from Lebanon by bringing about a compromise for the question of Palestine, and thus is promoting the King Husayn-'Arafat peace plan which includes many positive points from the viewpoints of Washington and Tel Aviv.

This so-called peace plan is very similar to the Fes peace plan and calls for the exchange of the occupied lands with peace with Israel, self-determination for the Palestinians, accepting the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and finally dealing with the Mideast problem through an international conference and the setting up of a Palestinian-Jordanian federation.

The acceptance of this proposal which in effect means trampling upon the ideals of the Palestinian and the Muslim people of the world by the United States is regarded as the center-piece of Fahd's so-called success in his American trip while Syria, the Palestinian revolutionaries and the strugglers of Lebanon have all strongly rejected this proposal.

A news item reported by the Palestinian WAFA news agency indicated that the Soviet Ambassador to Tunisia has submitted a message from Kremlin officials to 'Arafat in connection with this peace proposal indicating that the Soviet Union too approves

this plan. It is also noteworthy to remember that 'Arafat, in order to prepare the way for direct negotiations with Israel, met with five representatives of the Israeli Government at an unknown locality.

The third issue that was covered by Fahd and Reagan was their peace plan for ending the Iraqi-imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Diplomatic contacts among various officials from the region as well as among some Western figures ali indicate that perhaps Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, France, Algeria and Syria have come up with a plan for ending the war. Iranian top officials, including the Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati have rejected this plan aready and have said that Syria's participation in it is most unlikely.

This proposal is in such a way that Iraq will not become the loser in the war and, while it keeps Saddam's regime in power, it will also give Iran some advantages. It is worth remembering that Iranian authorities have repeatedly said that there could be no peace with Saddam and the Ba'thist regime in Iraq and that only through the annihiliation of Saddam could peace be achieved.

The peace proposal made by Saudi Arabia and other Arab states has three main points. It calls for the return of the two armies to international borders and it calls for the Algiers agreement of 1975 to be regarded as the main basis for solving the border differences between Iran and Iraq, and finally, it stipulates the establishment of an international fund for the reconstruction of the war-damaged regions. As one can see, Iran's main condition for peace is not included in this proposal.

Generally speaking, Fahd's visit to America does not prove anything new about Saudi Arabia's subservience to the United States, but, taking into account the words of the American secretary of defense who said the United States was about to drastically review its Middle East policy, one can assume that Washington is about to change the main axis of its Mideast policy from the Palestine-Lebanese axis to the Persian Gulf-Iran axis.

But what was most glaringly apparent in the talks between Fahd and Reagan was the fear felt by the United States and its lackey regimes from seeing their rule ended under the influence of the Islamic revolution.

The strengthening of Saudi Arabia's military might, along with the introduction of a compromise on the question of Palestine and applying pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the war all indicate how deep the fear of the Islamic revolution has set in the hearts and minds of the world arrogance and its regional lackeys.